

are still larger and smaller specimens there. Mr. Kinnear tells me that the type of *H. c. rufa* Wallace from Macassar, Celebes, has a wing-length of 120 mm., therefore 5 mm. more than my largest specimen. On the other hand, two specimens from Taliaboe, Sula Islands, have wing-lengths of 121 and 123 mm. and bills of 63–64 mm., and Hartert (Nov. Zool. v. p. 129) gives for a series from Sula Mangoli: wing 120–124, culmen 63–67 mm. We must therefore, for the time being, call this Sula race *H. c. rufa*, though the distribution seems rather strange.

A careful revision of the races of *Halcyon coromanda* is badly needed. Perhaps the number of subspecies will be considerably increased. There is very little sexual or individual variation in large series from one region.

### A new Race of Forest Warbler from Nyasaland.

Mr. C. W. BENSON sent the following note on the status of the genus *Bradypterus* in Nyasaland, including the description of a new Forest Warbler:—

#### 1. Preliminary.

Admiral Lynes, in the J. f. O., Suppl. 1934, pp. 85–86, regards *Bradypterus nyassæ* as a race of *B. cinnamomeus*, and Vincent, in 'The Ibis,' 1935, pp. 510–511, considers the possibility of there being two representatives of the genus in Nyasaland (in addition, of course, to the swamp dweller, *B. brachypterus*)—a long-tailed bird with broad webs and a short-tailed with narrow webs.

When collecting recently on the Nyika Plateau and on Nyakhowa Mountain, in Nyasaland, I was surprised and interested to find a species of *Bradypterus* frequenting thick grass and bracken growth *outside* evergreen forest. It had a call quite distinct from that of the bird living *inside* the evergreen forest, with which I was already very familiar, and which is aptly described by Vincent in 'The Ibis,' 1935, pp. 511–512. Vincent mentions birds, presumably with the calls he describes, as living "just within or around the edges of the forest." It is certainly true that such calls are occasionally to be heard in thick bracken growth outside forest, but they are far more frequently heard from the *interior* of

forest. The true inhabitant of thick grass and bracken growth utters a trill not so loud as the "chit-chit-chit chit" (Vincent) of the forest bird. It is usually preceded by a trisyllabic "tee, tee, tee." The alarm call is not so sharp as the "chirrip" (Vincent) of the forest bird.

I have examined all the Nyasaland specimens belonging to this genus in the British Museum, and I find that, apart from *B. brachypterus* of swamps, they can be divided into two groups—a long-tailed (*B. cinnamomeus nyassæ*) and a short-tailed. It also appears that the former is distinguishable by having broad webs to the tail, the latter narrow webs. A great many of the specimens have too many of their tail-feathers missing for it to be possible for the tail-length to be determined. But in the case of those in which it is possible, when grouped accordingly, it also becomes evident that there is a colour difference. The long-tailed birds differ from the short-tailed on the underside in that the wash of pale brown colour on the chest is less rufous, more pure brown, and on the chin and throat there is little or no wash, resulting in a more generally white appearance in that region. The specimens with very incomplete tails fall into one or other of the two groups as by colour, except for four specimens from the Masuku Mts. and one from Nyakhowa Mt., in the north, collected by me *inside* evergreen forest, and with a call similar to such birds further south, and which agree closely in colouring with *B. usambaræ*. In size, too, they correspond closely, though none of the tails are complete enough for it to be of any value to take their lengths into consideration (except that there is no reason to consider them to be long-tailed birds, since the longest tail among them (consisting of seven feathers) is 64 mm. only (see below).

## 2. *Summary of Tail-length Measurements.*

Seven Nyasaland specimens with nine feathers or more in tail (complete tail has ten feathers) have tail-length 60–67 mm. (two males, 61, 63, five ? sex, 60–67 mm.). Habitat *interior* of evergreen forest.

Seven Nyasaland specimens (completeness of tail not taken

into account, have tail-length 68–80 mm. (four males, 74–80, three females, 68–71 mm.). Habitat dense grass and bracken *outside* evergreen forest. Eight specimens of *B. usambaræ* from N.E. Tanganyika and Southern Kenya :

- (a) Ten tail-feathers : two males, 60–65, two females, 55–61 mm.
- (b) Eight tail-feathers : three males, 58–63, one female, 55 mm. (as the central pair of tail-feathers in the complete tail do not project more than 4 mm. beyond the adjacent feathers these measurements may be regarded as of value for the present purpose).

3. *Description of a new Subspecies of the Forest Warbler*  
*Bradypterus usambaræ*.

I consider that the Nyasaland short-tailed bird should be regarded as a race of *B. usambaræ*, also clearly a short-tailed bird. Both inhabit evergreen forest, and when at Amani, N.E. Tanganyika, I at once recognized the call of what I took to be the Nyasaland forest bird, which Mr. R. E. Moreau informed me was in fact that of *B. usambaræ*. I propose to name this bird

***Bradypterus usambaræ granti*, subsp. nov.**

*Description.*—Differs from *B. u. usambaræ* in the generally less grey tinge of the brown colouring on the underside, including the flanks, and in the more rufous, less chocolate colour of the upper side.

*Soft Parts.*—Bill dark grey, with basal two-thirds of lower mandible pale grey ; feet pale brown ; iris dark brown.

*Distribution.*—Evergreen forests of Nyasaland at 3000 feet and over to as far north as the Vipya Plateau.

*Type.*—In the British Museum. Adult male. Lichenya Plateau, Mlanje Mt., Nyasaland. Collected by Jack Vincent on December 31, 1931. Collector's no. 118. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.1031.

*Measurements of Type.*—Wing 62, tail (complete with ten feathers) 60 ; culmen from base 16 ; tarsus 25.5 mm.

*Remarks.*—Named in honour of Captain C. H. B. Grant, to whom I am indebted for his interest and advice regarding this problem.

The ways in which this bird differs from *B. cinnamomeus nyassæ* have already been indicated (tail-length, colour, voice, and habitat). Twenty specimens examined.

#### 4. *General.*

It is remarkable that the form *B. usambaræ granti* should only now be recognized, although Sir Charles Belcher records notes clearly mainly referable to it in his book 'The Birds of Nyasaland' (1930), and it was in fact first collected by Mr. Alexander Whyte as long ago as the 'nineties of the last century. The colour differences between it and *B. cinnamomeus nyassæ* are not distinctive in the way that they are between the two species further north. This is an excellent example of how field observations can be of assistance to systematic work in museums.

It should be noted that *B. cinnamomeus nyassæ* has not been recorded from between the Nyika and Mlanje, nor do I believe that it does in fact occur (also note that *Turdus olivaceus* has not been found between the Nyika and Malosa, almost as great a distance). Although there is plenty of suitable country for it I have nowhere heard its voice. It should be pointed out that while evergreen forest is not susceptible to fire, bracken and grass growth is, and this may explain its absence. On the other hand, there is Vincent's suggestion that the type of *B. nyassæ* may have been wrongly labelled and in reality have been obtained in northern Nyasaland.

It is likely that a review of the genus as a whole, which I have not had the time to carry out, will show that the name *B. usambaræ* will have to be relegated to subspecific status. Thus it is possible, for instance, that *B. msiri* Neave, from the southern Belgian Congo, an older name, should be regarded as conspecific with *B. usambaræ*. *B. msiri* is only known from the type-specimen, which unfortunately has a very incomplete tail, and it is not possible to decide whether it is conspecific

with *B. usambaræ* or *B. cinnamomeus*. In colouring it is close to *B. usambaræ granti*, though it is a deeper chocolate on the upper side and on the flanks and thighs. Again Moreau, in Proc. Zool. Soc. part 4, 1935, p. 882, regards *B. mariæ* Madarasz., from Kilimanjaro, as conspecific with *B. usambaræ*.

The distributions of the species considered in this paper and their races are as follows :—

1. BRADYPTERUS USAMBARÆ. Short-tailed. Habitat interior of evergreen forest.

(a) *Bradypterus usambaræ usambaræ* (of which *B. roehli* Grote, Orn. Monatsb. xxviii. p. 6, 1920 : Mlalo, near Wilhelmstal, Tanganyika Territory, is a synonym, see Selater and Moreau, Ibis, 1933, p. 23).

*Bradypterus usambaræ* Reichenow, Journ. Orn. 1917, p. 391 : Usambara, Tanganyika Territory.

*Distribution*.—Taita Hills in southern Kenya : North Paré, Usambara Mts., Nguru Mts., and Mt. Rungwe, in Tanganyika Territory : Masuku Mts. and Nyakhowa Mt., in northern Nyasaland.

*Remarks*.—Seventeen specimens examined.

(b) *Bradypterus usambaræ granti*.

*Distribution*.—Nyasaland to as far north as the Vipya Plateau.

2. BRADYPTERUS CINNAMOMEUS. Long tailed. Habitat dense growth such as of bracken and grass *outside* evergreen forest.

(a) *Bradypterus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus*.

*Sylvia* ? (*Salicaria*) *cinnamomea* Rüppell, N. Wirbelt., Vög. p. 111, pl. xlii., 1840 : Entschetgab, Simen Prov.

*Distribution*.—Abyssinia, Kenya Colony, and Ruwenzori.

(b) *Bradypterus cinnamomeus rufostavidus* \*.

*Bradypterus rufostavidus* Reichenow & Neumann, Orn. Monatsb. iii. p. 75, 1895 : Kifinika Hut, Kilimanjaro.

\* Although not recognized in the 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum,' this race is recognized by Selater in Proc. Zool. Soc. part 4, 1935, p. 881.

*Distribution*.—Kilimanjaro and Usambara Mts., in northern Tanganyika Territory.

(c) *Bradypterus cinnamomeus nyassæ* (much less generally rufous than the two preceding races).

*Bradypterus nyassæ* Shelley, Ibis, 1893, p. 16: Milanje Plateau, 6000 ft., Nyasaland.

*Distribution*.—Mlanje Mt., Nyakhowa Mt., Nyika Plateau, and Mafinga Mts., in Nyasaland: Njombe, in S.W. Tanganyika Territory: Nguru Mts., in East Central Tanganyika Territory.

*Remarks*.—Eleven specimens examined.

### Notes on some Eastern African Birds.

Capt. C. H. B. GRANT and Mr. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED sent the following six notes:—

(1) On the Type-locality of *Jynx ruficollis* Wagler.

In the Bull. B. O. C. lix. 1939, p. 72, we discussed this question. Recently Dr. C. E. Hellmayr has kindly drawn our attention to an article by Stresemann in the Journ. für. Orn. 1922, pp. 498–503, entitled “The development of the bird collections in the Berlin Museum, under Illiger and Lichtenstein.” On p. 501 of this article we learn that Ludwig Krebs was a farmer at Uitenhage. We therefore consider that the exact type-locality of *Jynx ruficollis* Wag. can be fixed as Uitenhage, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

(2) On the Races of *Smithornis capensis* (Smith) occurring in Eastern Africa.

Van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 99, recognizes five races; Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. 1930, p. 305, recognizes seven races; Bannerman, Ibis, 1923, p. 718, recognizes six races; and Sclater, Jackson's Bds. Kenya Colony and Uganda, ii. 1938, p. 768, recognizes three races, and is correct in bringing *S. c. camerunensis* Sharpe into western Uganda.

Dr. Stresemann, on behalf of Mr. Moreau, compared Amani birds with *S. c. suahelicus* Grote, and found that they agree.